

AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/985,848

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1 through 20 will be all the claims pending in the application.

At the Examiner's request, Applicants affirm the election of N,N'-(4,4'-diphenylmethane) bismaleimide as the bismaleimide compound.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter at Section No. 11, page 4, of the Action. Therein, Claims 2 and 5-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Consistent with the Examiner's indication at Section No. 11, page 4, of the Action, Applicants have rewritten Claims 2 and 5 as independent claims, including in Claims 2 and 5 all of the limitations of Claim 1, from which Claims 2 and 5 originally depended. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 5 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, each of Claims 4, 11, and 19-20 depends from Claim 2, and is therefore also in condition for allowance. Regarding new Claims 11 and 19-20, they are supported by, *e.g.*, original Claims 3 and 9-10.

Also, each of Claims 6-10 and 13-16 depends from Claim 5, and is therefore also in condition for allowance. Regarding new Claims 13-16, they are supported by, *e.g.*, original Claims 2-4.

Applicants further note with appreciation the Examiner's indication at Section No. 7, page 3, of the Action, that Claim 4 would be allowable if it were limited to the elected species, *i.e.*, if it were limited to N,N'-(4,4'-diphenylmethane) bismaleimide as the bismaleimide compound.

Consistent with the Examiner's indication at Section No. 7, page 3, of the Action, Applicants rewrote Claim 1 to recite the elected species, N,N'-(4,4'-diphenylmethane)

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bismaleimide, as the bismaleimide compound. Accordingly, Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, each of Claims 3 and 17-18 depends from Claim 1, and is therefore also in condition for allowance. Regarding new Claims 17-18, they are supported by, *e.g.*, original Claims 9-10.

No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the claims render moot each of the prior art rejections presented in the Action.

Furthermore, with respect to the objection to the title at Section No. 5, page 3, of the Action, Applicants have amended the title as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 6, 2004